

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

The Year 1391 (March 21, 2012- March 20, 2013)

Introduction

The pair concepts of employment and unemployment are so basic to national economies that any rise in employment rate - which means a drop in unemployment - is reckoned as an indicator to the national development. Moreover, the unemployment rate is an indicator for appraising the economic conditions of the country. To quarterly and annually estimate the labor force indicators in Iran, the labor force survey is conducted on a seasonal basis across the nation by using Rotation Sampling. As the survey is over, the outcomes are compared with those of the previous rounds in order to observe the possible changes in indicators over seasons at the national, urban, rural and provincial levels. The survey was first conducted in the year 1384¹ and since then has regularly been taken in the middle month of every season. Another survey titled Household Employment and Unemployment Characteristics Survey (HEUCS) would be implemented before L.F.S. The HEUCS was first taken in the year 1373 and repeated in the years 1376 to 1379 once a year from the month of Aban (October 23 to November 22). From the years 1380 to 1382, it used to be taken on a seasonal basis, middle month of every season, while in the year 1383 it was only executed from the months of Ordibehesht (April 21 to May 21)and Aban (October 23 to November 22). To improve the HEUCS quality and its conformance with the international concepts, particularly those of the ILO, the survey plan was revised into the current Labor Force Survey.

The rotational nature of the survey requires drawing on a basic sample– a sample out of which sub-samples might be taken to be used in different rounds of a certain survey or in different surveys. The basic sample of the Labor Force Survey was taken from the listing information of the 1385 National Population and Housing Census.

¹ . Iranian year begins on 21st March of the Christian year and ends on March 20th of the next year. To convert the Iranian year into Christian year, please add 621 to the former.

Definitions and concepts

Economically active population

All people aged 10 or over (a specified minimum age) who according to the definition of work have been taking part in production of goods or services (employed) or have been able to take part in production of goods or services(unemployed) during the calendar week preceding the survey week (reference week) are considered as economically active population.

❖ Employed

All people aged 10 or over who according to the definition of work have worked for at least one hour ¹during the reference week or have temporarily left their job for one reason or another, are reckoned as employed. The employed are divided into two major groups of wage/salary earners and the self-employed. Being temporarily absent from the job within the reference week, while having a formal attachment to the job by the wage/salary earners and continuation of the business by the self-employed, is considered employment. The following people are also considered employed due to their critical role in the national economic activity.

- ❖ Persons who, without receiving any remuneration, work for a member of their household that is a relative (unpaid family workers).
- ❖ Trainees who perform an activity in relation to the activity of the workshop during the training period. In other words, they directly contribute to the production of goods or services and their activity is considered “work”.
- ❖ Students who have worked during the reference week, according to the definition of work
- ❖ All people who are serving as permanent and temporary cadre in the armed forces (armed forces, cadre personnel, soldiers, commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers of the military forces and the police).

Unemployed

The unemployed are all people aged 10 or over who:

1. have no job during the reference week (not engaged in a wage/salary job or self-employment,)
2. are available to work during the reference week or the following week (available for a wage/salary job or self-employment,)
3. have been seeking job during the reference week and the preceding three weeks (have taken specific steps to seek paid employment or self-employment).

All people who because of expecting to start a job in near future or return to their former job have not been seeking a job - had no job but have been available to work - are also considered unemployed.

¹ According to the ILO standards

Underemployed

The underemployed are all employed people who have been present in or temporarily absent from the workplace and have worked less than 44 hours during the reference week due to economic reasons such as work recession, not finding a job with more hours, or non-work season, but have been willing and ready to do more work.

Indicators

Economic participation rate (activity rate)

The ratio of the active population (employed & unemployed) 10 years of age or over (15 years of age or over) to the working age population 10 years of age or over (15 years of age or over) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Economic participation rate} = \frac{\text{Economically active population aged 10 or over (aged 15 or over)}}{\text{Population aged 10 or over (aged 15 or over)}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate

The ratio of the unemployed population to the active population (employed & unemployed) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population}}{\text{Active population}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate of the population aged 15-24 (15-29 years old)

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 15 -24 (15-29 years of age) to the economically active population at age 15-24 (15-29) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate aged 15-24 (15-29)} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 15-24 (15-29)}}{\text{Economically active population aged 15-24 (15-29)}} \times 100$$

Underemployment rate

The ratio of the underemployed population to the active population multiplied by 100

$$\text{Underemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Underemployed population.}}{\text{Employed population.}} \times 100$$

Labor Force Indicators in the Year 1391¹

Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the year 1391. Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous year 1390. In addition, tables 3-4 and 5-6 provide similar comparisons at seasonal level in the year 1391 and the years 1390-1391 in provincial level respectively.

Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; year 1391						
Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity of population aged 10 and over	Rate	37.7	61.6	13.8	36.7	40.3
	Number	24105506	19705319	4400186	17220011	6885495
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	12.2	10.5	19.9	13.8	8.2
	Number	2944158	2069836	874322	2379515	564643
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	26.9	23.4	41.5	31.4	18.4
	Number	1070498	750193	320305	817026	253471
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	24.5	20.9	38.3	27.4	17.0
	Number	1973817	1333416	640400	1582011	391805
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	18.9	17.6	25.2	5.4	50.6
	Number	4002033	3112369	889664	801898	3200135
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	33.6	35.2	25.4	36.2	27.4
	Number	7105973	6212068	893904	5375124	1730848
Employment share in services sector	Share	47.5	47.1	49.4	58.4	22.0
	Number	10052881	8310586	1742295	8663013	1389868
Underemployment share of the population aged 10 and over		8.9	9.8	4.3	7.5	12.0
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over with regular working hours of more than 49		40.6	45.5	16.2	42.0	37.2

Note: Difference in the total is due to rounding figures.

A review of the economic participation rate (activity rate) reveals that about 37.7% of the working age population (10 years and over) are economically active; i.e., they lie either in the employed or the unemployed group. In addition, the results indicate that the economic participation rate stands lower for women compared to men and urban areas compared to rural areas.

A review of the unemployment rate shows that 12.2% of the active population was unemployed. The results show that unemployment rate stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas respectively. A review of underemployment share shows that 8.9% of the population was underemployed. The results indicate that the underemployment rate stands higher for men compared to women and rural areas in contrast to urban areas.

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A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 47.5% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 33.6% and agriculture sector with 18.9 %.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 26.9%. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas.

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 24.5% of the active population was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas.

Review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 and over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 40.6% of them work more than 49 hours a week. As a decent work indicator, it reveals that a great share of the employed population of the country works more than the standard hours.

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (the year 1391 compared with the year 1390) (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country		Male		Female		Urban Areas		Rural Areas	
	Year 1390	Change	Year 1390	Change	Year 1390	Change	Year 1390	Change	Year 1390	Change
Economic participation rate (activity rate)	36.9	0.8	60.7	0.9	12.6	1.2	35.8	0.9	39.8	0.5
Unemployment rate	12.3	-0.1	10.5	0.0	20.9	-1.0	13.7	0.1	8.9	-0.7
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	26.5	0.4	22.9	0.5	42.7	-1.2	30.0	1.4	19.8	-1.4
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	24.0	0.5	20.1	0.8	40.3	-2.0	26.5	0.9	17.7	-0.7

This table shows the changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas in the year 1391 compared with the previous year. The changes in the indicators at national level are as follows:

- _ Economic participation rate (activity rate) in the year 1391 experienced a 0.8% increase compared to the year 1390.
- _ The unemployment rate in the year 1391 decreased by 0.1% compared to the year 1390.
- _ The unemployment rate of the youth aged 15-24 experienced a 0.4 % rise compared to the year 1390.

- The unemployment rate of the youth aged 15-29 experienced a 0.5% increase compared to the year 1390.

Figure 1 shows economic participation rate for the years 1384-1391.

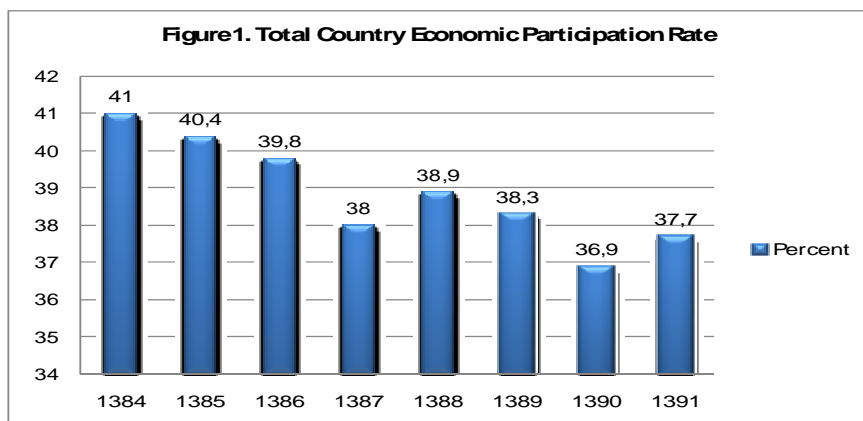


Figure 2 shows unemployment rate for the years 1384-1391.

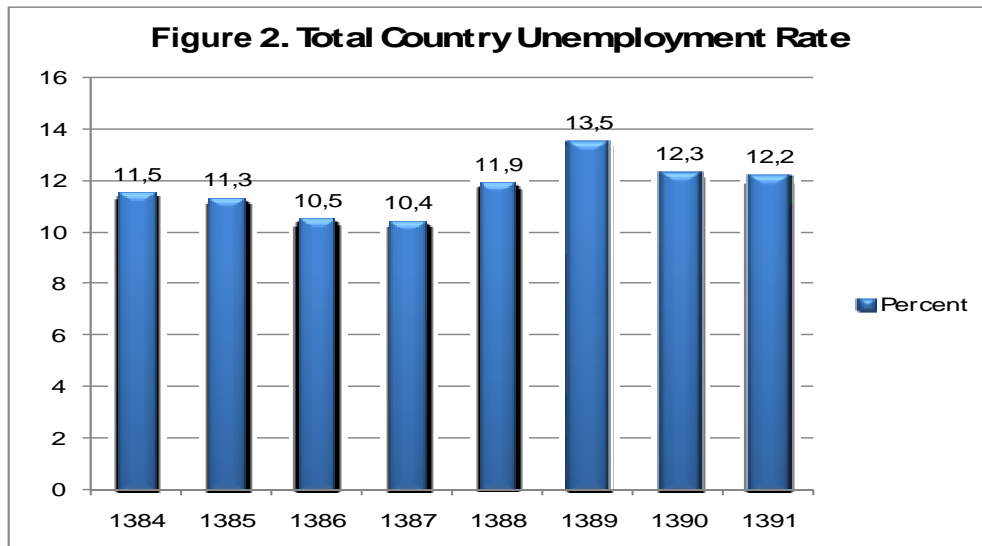


Figure 3 shows unemployment rate over successive seasons of the years 1384-1391.

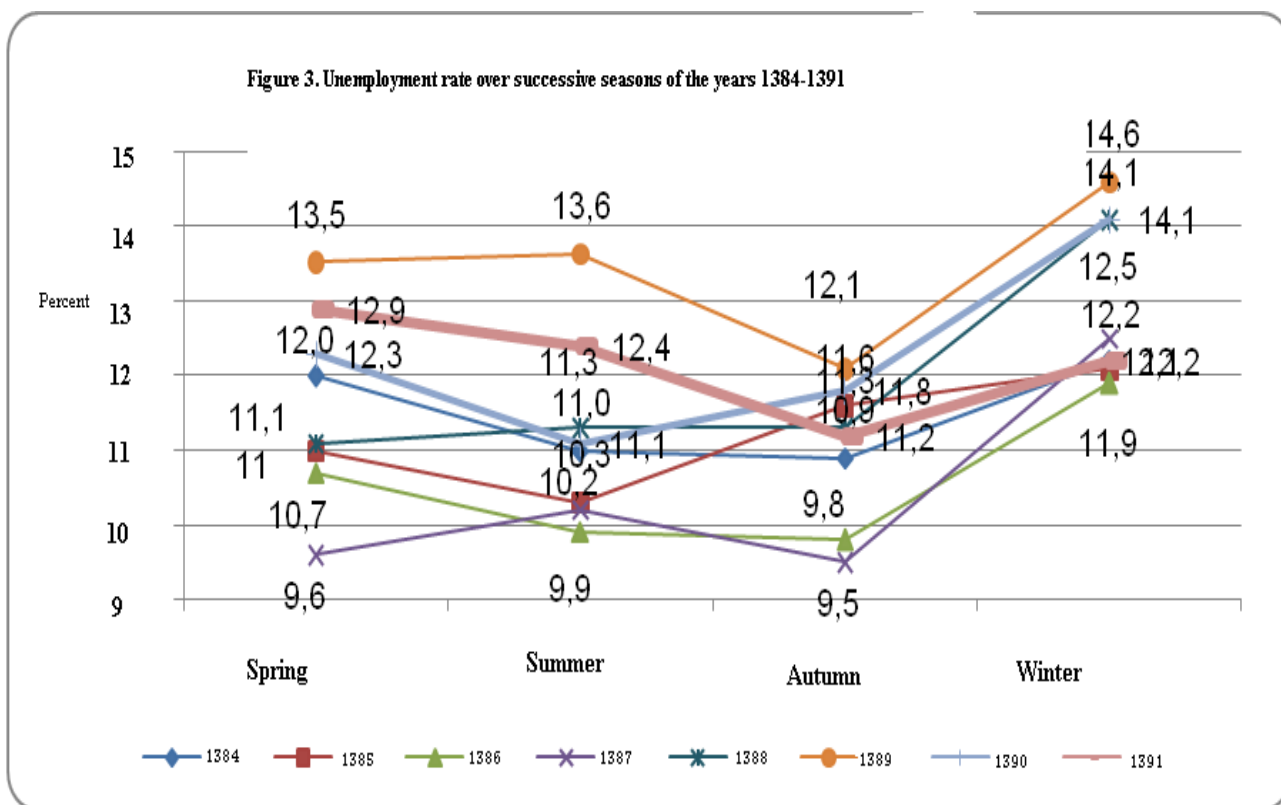


Table 3 shows the economic participation rate and unemployment rate over successive seasons in the year 1391 by province.

Province	Total		Spring		Summer		Autumn		Winter	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	37.7	12.2	38.2	12.9	38.2	12.4	37.5	11.2	36.8	12.4
East Azarbayegan	40.8	12.5	42.2	12.6	39.4	14.8	40.8	10.4	40.8	12.3
West Azarbayegan	42.8	11.1	42.9	9.7	45.2	8.6	42.4	10.8	40.9	15.7
Ardebil	42.6	13.4	45.7	11.8	42.9	13.6	41.0	12.3	40.6	16.3
Esfahan	40.0	13.8	41.8	14.2	40.2	14.3	39.5	13.3	38.5	13.4
Alburz	37.2	14.9	36.8	16.9	37.4	15.0	37.3	14.1	37.2	13.8
Ilam	35.4	17.3	35.7	21.0	36.1	14.1	36.2	15.0	33.7	19.2
Bushehr	35.3	11.7	33.8	11.2	34.3	13.7	35.5	9.8	37.8	11.9
Tehran	37.8	11.6	38.5	14.6	38.6	12.2	37.6	9.5	36.5	10.1
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	36.7	10.8	37.4	10.6	37.6	10.3	35.8	11.4	35.7	11.1
South Khorasan	38.2	6.4	41.7	6.5	35.9	6.3	38.9	5.4	36.0	7.7
Khorasan-e-Razavi	40.2	8.7	37.9	10.4	41.7	8.4	42.5	7.9	38.7	8.3
North Khorasan	37.5	10.6	36.9	9.1	40.2	9.3	37.8	11.3	35.0	13.0
Khuzestan	33.9	12.8	33.9	10.0	32.8	13.2	34.3	14.1	34.7	13.8
Zanjan	42.3	11.4	42.6	10.3	43.0	13.6	42.4	10.1	41.1	11.6
Semnan	31.4	9.6	32.1	10.0	31.7	7.2	30.6	9.7	31.1	11.6
Sistan & Baluchestan	26.9	10.5	27.5	12.1	24.6	10.0	26.9	6.9	28.3	12.7
Fars	36.8	16.8	37.0	18.3	37.8	21.2	35.9	13.6	36.6	13.9
Qazvin	38.8	12.1	38.7	11.6	39.3	12.1	39.1	12.1	38.1	12.6
Qom	34.6	11.3	35.7	14.3	35.7	11.8	34.3	10.3	32.9	8.7
Kordestan	39.5	14.0	41.0	11.9	41.2	10.4	38.3	15.6	37.4	18.8
Kerman	34.0	7.8	35.2	7.5	33.4	8.2	32.8	7.2	34.6	8.2
Kermanshah	38.3	16.2	38.0	13.0	38.5	14.1	37.5	18.8	39.3	18.9
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	29.7	12.3	28.6	9.8	32.0	15.9	28.5	10.8	29.6	12.3
Golestan	36.7	8.9	36.8	7.8	38.2	9.3	36.3	8.6	35.6	9.8
Gilan	40.6	15.6	42.6	14.5	43.4	14.8	38.5	15.1	38.0	18.2
Lorestan	35.2	20.2	35.3	19.3	35.9	20.5	35.9	20.6	33.6	20.4
Mazandaran	38.2	9.8	41.1	12.6	38.6	8.7	36.5	7.1	36.8	10.3
Markazi	38.2	10.4	38.5	13.0	38.9	8.9	37.8	10.1	37.5	9.5
Hormozgan	33.3	11.5	32.6	11.2	35.1	12.4	33.4	12.5	32.2	9.6
Hamedan	38.5	9.7	39.5	12.0	39.5	8.7	38.7	8.0	36.3	10.3
Yazd	35.7	10.2	34.9	9.5	34.9	9.7	35.7	10.7	37.2	11.1

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results, the year 1391

Table.4 Main Labor Force Indicators by Province- the years 1390-1391				
Province	Economic participation rate		Unemployment rate	
	1390	1391	1390	1391
Total Country	36.9	37.7	12.3	12.2
East Azarbayejan	39.8	40.8	8.8	12.5
West Azarbayejan	41.9	42.8	13.0	11.1
Ardebil	42.5	42.6	12.7	13.4
Esfahan	39.6	40.0	13.2	13.8
Alburz	38.0	37.2	19.3	14.9
Ilam	36.9	35.4	15.7	17.3
Bushehr	34.1	35.3	11.0	11.7
Tehran	36.0	37.8	11.3	11.6
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	36.7	36.7	13.3	10.8
South Khorasan	38.1	38.2	8.4	6.4
Khorasan-e-Razavi	36.5	40.2	9.1	8.7
North Khorasan	37.8	37.5	12.1	10.6
Khuzestan	33.7	33.9	10.5	12.8
Zanjan	41.6	42.3	8.4	11.4
Semnan	33.9	31.4	10.3	9.6
Sistan & Baluchestan	26.1	26.9	9.9	10.5
Fars	37.3	36.8	18.5	16.8
Qazvin	39.8	38.8	12.4	12.1
Qom	34.5	34.6	9.8	11.3
Kordestan	39.9	39.5	14.0	14.0
Kerman	34.3	34.0	12.1	7.8
Kermanshah	33.2	38.3	15.7	16.2
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	30.2	29.7	14.1	12.3
Golestan	38.6	36.7	8.7	8.9
Gilan	38.8	40.6	16.6	15.6
Lorestan	37.0	35.2	19.2	20.2
Mazandaran	39.1	38.2	10.2	9.8
Markazi	36.9	38.2	11.0	10.4
Hormozgan	32.8	33.3	11.0	11.5
Hamedan	37.9	38.5	12.4	9.7
Yazd	35.6	35.7	6.0	10.2

Table.5 . Share of main activity sectors by province- the years 1391-1390

Provinces	Agriculture		Manufacturing		Services	
	1390	1391	1390	1391	1390	1391
Total Country	18.6	18.9	33.4	33.6	48.0	47.5
East Azarbayegan	19.0	21.3	42.6	41.7	38.4	37.0
West Azarbayegan	35.8	38.6	24.0	24.7	40.3	36.7
Ardebil	40.0	34.2	23.6	28.0	36.3	37.8
Esfahan	10.7	11.1	39.9	42.8	49.4	46.1
Alburz	3.0	3.2	41.1	42.1	55.9	54.7
Ilam	25.3	24.5	30.2	28.1	44.4	47.4
Bushehr	17.0	17.0	25.2	23.5	57.8	59.5
Tehran	1.4	1.6	35.9	33.9	62.7	64.5
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	16.6	15.3	42.1	42.2	41.3	42.5
South Khorasan	30.2	36.7	34.2	28.7	35.7	34.6
Khorasan-e-Razavi	24.7	22.2	29.9	35.6	45.3	42.3
North Khorasan	37.2	36.9	26.6	28.3	36.3	34.7
Khuzestan	16.7	18.9	34.8	32.8	48.5	48.3
Zanjan	33.2	30.7	33.2	34.0	33.5	35.3
Semnan	12.7	13.7	36.0	33.6	51.3	52.7
Sistan & Baluchestan	24.0	25.2	35.1	32.6	40.9	42.2
Fars	24.2	24.2	31.0	30.5	44.8	45.3
Qazvin	22.0	21.1	37.4	36.5	40.6	42.5
Qom	5.3	5.2	39.3	41.2	55.4	53.6
Kordestan	29.1	29.5	27.4	27.1	43.5	43.4
Kerman	29.1	32.2	31.3	31.8	39.6	36.0
Kermanshah	27.5	28.0	25.4	21.8	47.1	50.2
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	19.7	19.5	32.4	34.7	47.9	45.9
Golestan	29.3	28.4	29.2	32.7	41.5	39.0
Gilan	25.1	25.8	25.4	26.7	49.4	47.4
Lorestan	29.6	29.6	28.2	29.5	42.1	41.0
Mazandaran	19.2	20.5	31.9	30.6	49.0	48.9
Markazi	20.4	20.0	39.1	38.2	40.5	41.8
Hormozgan	14.9	15.4	29.3	30.9	55.8	53.7
Hamedan	24.8	26.8	31.4	31.8	43.8	41.4
Yazd	10.9	12.3	43.2	43.2	45.8	44.5

Table.6 . Share of main activity sectors in successive seasons by province- the years 1390-1391

Province	Spring			Summer			Autumn			Winter		
	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services
Total country	20.3	32.4	47.3	20.3	32.7	46.9	18.1	34.8	47.1	16.9	34.4	48.7
East Azarbayejan	23.7	39.2	37.1	21.9	40.7	37.4	19.1	43.9	37.0	20.5	43.2	36.3
West Azarbayejan	38.7	25.0	36.3	43.8	24.6	31.6	37.8	24.7	37.6	33.3	24.5	42.2
Ardebil	41.8	24.8	33.4	35.2	26.6	38.1	29.3	28.2	42.4	29.0	33.0	38.0
Esfahan	11.1	42.3	46.6	11.4	42.2	46.4	10.3	44.2	45.5	11.7	42.4	45.9
Alburz	3.1	40.4	56.5	4.1	41.5	54.4	3.2	43.8	53.0	2.3	42.8	54.9
Ilam	23.1	32.5	44.4	26.4	26.2	47.3	25.5	25.7	48.8	22.8	28.1	49.1
Bushehr	15.1	24.5	60.2	16.9	21.5	61.6	17.5	22.9	59.4	18.3	24.9	56.8
Tehran	1.7	30.3	68.1	1.7	31.0	67.3	1.7	38.1	60.2	1.3	36.3	62.4
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	13.3	44.9	41.8	16.1	43.8	40.1	17.8	39.9	42.3	14.2	39.9	45.9
South Khorasan	38.5	27.7	33.8	35.9	30.4	33.7	38.6	26.4	35.0	33.2	30.6	36.2
Khorasan-e-Razavi	24.0	32.4	43.7	22.9	35.8	41.4	22.1	37.3	40.6	19.9	36.4	43.7
North Khorasan	37.3	27.3	35.4	41.0	27.0	31.9	34.8	30.8	34.2	34.1	28.3	37.6
Khuzestan	18.0	36.0	46.0	20.8	32.8	46.4	19.3	31.0	49.8	17.6	31.4	51.0
Zanjan	30.8	35.5	33.7	33.2	33.1	33.6	29.4	34.0	36.6	29.3	33.3	37.4
Semnan	14.1	35.1	50.8	12.7	32.9	54.4	13.6	34.2	52.2	14.2	32.3	53.5
Sistan & Baluchestan	28.5	34.0	37.4	26.7	29.5	43.8	23.0	32.3	44.7	23.1	33.9	43.0
Fars	27.0	29.6	43.5	25.0	32.4	42.6	23.5	31.3	45.2	21.3	29.1	49.6
Qazvin	19.1	35.9	45.0	22.7	37.6	39.8	21.6	36.9	41.4	20.8	35.5	43.7
Qom	4.6	41.7	53.6	5.4	40.7	53.9	7.3	38.6	54.1	3.5	43.6	52.9
Kordestan	31.9	26.7	41.4	31.7	28.0	40.3	27.0	28.5	44.5	26.5	24.9	48.6
Kerman	32.6	33.9	33.6	33.3	32.0	34.8	31.4	31.4	37.2	31.6	29.8	38.6
Kermanshah	29.6	23.8	46.6	30.0	23.5	46.5	26.4	20.9	52.7	25.7	18.9	55.4
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	23.4	29.9	46.7	20.9	34.2	44.9	16.3	36.9	46.8	16.5	38.4	45.1
Golestan	28.3	32.1	39.6	29.3	31.0	39.8	28.4	34.1	37.5	27.4	33.6	39.0
Gilan	32.9	24.8	42.3	34.1	23.2	42.7	17.4	29.4	53.2	17.1	30.3	52.7
Lorestan	29.7	30.2	40.1	30.9	30.5	38.6	32.1	29.1	38.8	25.5	27.9	46.6
Mazandaran	22.6	29.4	48.0	22.5	29.6	47.8	20.1	30.5	49.4	16.5	32.9	50.6
Markazi	22.5	37.9	39.6	22.1	36.7	41.2	17.2	38.2	44.5	18.3	40.0	41.7
Hormozgan	14.2	29.5	56.4	12.9	31.2	55.9	17.8	30.4	51.8	16.9	32.8	50.3
Hamedan	30.5	29.3	40.2	30.2	31.2	38.6	23.7	31.4	44.9	22.6	35.6	41.8
Yazd	13.2	40.9	45.8	11.8	42.1	46.1	11.5	46.6	42.0	12.6	43.4	44.0

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